

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1-16. (Canceled)
17. (Currently Amended) A ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium for detecting methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), comprising:
  - nutrients for the growth of said *Staphylococcus aureus*;
  - an antibiotic added to the medium before the medium is solid ~~gels~~, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin, cefmetazole, or moxalactam; and
  - a chromogenic agent that releases a chromophore after hydrolysis with an enzyme that is active in said MRSA.
18. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, wherein the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 18, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.01 to 0.50 g/l.
20. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 19, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.05 to 0.40 g/l.
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 18, further comprising 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 21, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.
23. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, further comprising at least one of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside or 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide.
24. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 23, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.
25. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 23, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.
26. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, wherein the medium comprises agar.
27. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, comprising sodium chloride at a concentration of less than 3%.
28. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin.
29. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is cefmetazole.
30. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is moxalactam.
31. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, wherein the concentration of antibiotic is between 0.5 and 50 mg/l.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, further comprising vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 32, wherein the concentration of vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof is between approximately 5 mg/l to 50 mg/l.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin and the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, wherein the antibiotic is cefmetazole and the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 17, further comprising deferoxamine.

37. (Currently Amended) A ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium for detecting methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), comprising:

nutrients for the growth of said *Staphylococcus aureus*;

an antibiotic added to the medium before the medium is solid gels, wherein the antibiotic is flomoxef; and

a chromogenic agent that releases a chromophore after hydrolysis with an enzyme that is active in said MRSA.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 37, wherein the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 38, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.01 to 0.50 g/l.

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 39, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.05 to 0.40 g/l.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 38, further comprising 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 41, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 37, further comprising at least one of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside or 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 43, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 37, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 37, wherein the medium comprises agar.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 37, comprising sodium chloride at a concentration of less than 3%.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 37, wherein the concentration of flomoxef is between 0.5 and 50 mg/l.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 37, further comprising vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof.

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 49, wherein the concentration of vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof is between approximately 5 mg/l to 50 mg/l.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~gelled~~ solid culture medium of claim 37, further comprising deferoxamine.

52. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting the presence or absence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in a sample from a patient, comprising:

(a) inoculating a solid medium comprising (i) nutrients for the growth of said MRSA; (ii) an antibiotic, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin, cefmetazole, or moxalactam, and wherein the antibiotic is added to the medium before the medium is solid; and (iii) a chromogenic agent that releases a chromophore after hydrolysis with an enzyme that is active in said MRSA, with said sample;

(b) incubating said medium under conditions that allow growth of said MRSA;

(c) detecting, on said medium, the presence or absence of said MRSA by virtue of the presence or absence of colored colonies.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the sample is inoculated directly from a patient.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the sample is inoculated after an enriching phase.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the sample is inoculated by streaking onto the medium.
56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.
57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.01 to 0.50 g/l.
58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.05 to 0.40 g/l.
59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium further comprises 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside.
60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.
61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium further comprises at least one of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside or 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide.
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.
63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.
64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium comprises agar.
65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium comprises sodium chloride at a concentration of less than 3%.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is cefmetazole.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is moxalactam.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the concentration of antibiotic is between 0.5 and 50 mg/l.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium further comprises vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the concentration of vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof is between approximately 5 mg/l to 50 mg/l.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is cefoxitin and the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the antibiotic is cefmetazole and the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the medium further comprises deferoxamine.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the incubation is at a temperature between 25°C and 42°C.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the incubation is at a temperature between 30°C and 38°C.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein the incubation is at a temperature of 37°C.

78. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting the presence or absence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in a sample from a patient, comprising:

(a) inoculating a solid medium comprising (i) nutrients for the growth of said MRSA; (ii) an antibiotic wherein the antibiotic is flomoxef, and wherein the antibiotic is added to the medium before the medium is solid; and (iii) a chromogenic agent that releases a chromophore after hydrolysis with an enzyme that is active in said MRSA, with said sample;

(b) incubating said medium under conditions that allow growth of said MRSA;

(c) detecting, on said medium, the presence or absence of said MRSA by virtue of the presence or absence of colored colonies.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the sample is inoculated directly from a patient.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the sample is inoculated after an enriching phase.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the sample is inoculated by streaking onto the medium.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the chromogenic agent is 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.01 to 0.50 g/l.



84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-6-chloro-3-indoxyl-phosphate is from 0.05 to 0.40 g/l.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium further comprises 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium further comprises at least one of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside or 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl galactoside is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein the concentration of the 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl glucuronide is from 0.01 to 0.20 g/l.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium comprises agar.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium comprises sodium chloride at a concentration of less than 3%.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the concentration of flomoxef is between 0.5 and 50 mg/l.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium further comprises vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein the concentration of vancomycin, teicoplanin, avoparcin, or a mixture thereof is between approximately 5 mg/l to 50 mg/l.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the medium further comprises deferoxamine.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, wherein the incubation is at a temperature between 25°C and 42°C.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96, wherein the incubation is at a temperature between 30°C and 38°C.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 97, wherein the incubation is at a temperature of 37°C.